

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 /070 W

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R 071430Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1139

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SA, ID

SUBJECT: SUHARTO'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: JIDDA 3128

1. IN A MAY 5 MEETING WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD BEEN POSTPONED AND THAT HE HAD HEARD RATHER WILD SPECULATION ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE SAUDI ACTION. HE ASKED IF FAHD WOULD EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR THE POSTPONEMENT.

2. FAHD SAID THAT THE REASON WAS SIMPLE: SUHARTO'S VISIT WAS SCHEDULED TOO CLOSE AFTER THE DEATH OF FAISAL. A STATE VISIT INVOLVING A GREAT DEAL OF POMP WOULD HAVE BEEN INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME. REPEATING THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT, FAHD REMARKED THAT ANY DOUBTS AS TO SAUDI MOTIVES WOULD BE DISPELLED BY THE WARMTH AND EXTENT OF THE GREETING EXTENDED TO SUHARTO WHEN THE VISIT TAKES PLACE IN NOVEMBER.

3. THE SAME DAY WE RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH MINISTER COUNSELOR (NOW CHARGE) MASFAR OF THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY. NASFAR SAID THAT THE EMBASSY HAD YET TO

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RECEIVE A REPLY FROM JAKARTA TO THE SAG REQUEST FOR

A POSTPONEMENT OF THE VISIT AND SO CONSIDERED THE MATTER STILL OPEN WITH A CHANCE THAT A VISIT MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN JUNE.

4. MASFAR WAS UNSURE WHY THE SAUDIS HAD REQUESTED A POSTPONEMENT SINCE THE DATES HAD BEEN RECONFIRMED ONLY TWO WEEKS PREVIOUSLY AND WERE PUBLISHED BY THE SAUDI PRESS AS LATE AS APRIL 30. WHAT MADE THE POSTPONEMENT PARTICULARLY AWKWARD WAS THAT THE VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS TO HAVE BEEN PART OF A LARGER TOUR INVOLVING VISITS TO IRAN, EGYPT, AND CANADA.

5. COMMENT: FAHD SEEMED PERFECTLY SINCERE AND UNEVASIVE IN DESCRIBING THE REASONS FOR POSTPONING THE VISIT. OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OR STATE HAVE VISITED THE KINGDOM SINCE FAISAL'S DEATH (E.G. SADAT, ASAD, AND THE SHAH OF IRAN) BUT THESE HAVE BEEN WORKING VISITS AND EVEN THE SHAH MOST UNCHARACTERISTICALLY ARRIVED WITH ONLY 2 OR 3 PERSONS IN HIS ENTOURAGE. WE SUSPECT A LACK OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND SOME DIPLOMATIC FUMBLING ON BOTH THE SAUDI AND THE INDONESIAN SIDES. IF SUHARTO WANTS A FULL SCALE STATE VISIT HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO ACCEDE TO THE SAUDI REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT. IF HE IS JUST INTERESTED IN MEETING AND TALKING WITH SAUDI LEADERS HE MIGHT POSSIBLY STILL FIT SAUDI ARABIA INTO HIS TOUR BY THE ARTIFICE OF COMING HERE WITH A GREATLY REDUCED ENTOURAGE FOR THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF MAKING THE UMRA (LITTLE PILGRIMAGE). THE SAUDIS ARE USED TO AND GO ALONG WITH THIS PLOY BUT IT DOESN'T ALWAYS PUT THEM IN A VERY GOOD MOOD FOR TALKING.  
AKINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHIEF OF STATE VISITS  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, SA, ID, (SUHARTO)  
**To:** STATE  
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